



Office of Childhood

Office of Special Education

March 2023

Annual Report on Children Referred to First Steps for the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA): Calendar Year 2022

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Purpose

Under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act or CAPTA (Public Law 111-320), a referral of a child under the age of three who is involved in a substantiated case of abuse or neglect must be made to the early intervention program funded by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In Missouri, the Part C of IDEA is known as First Steps.

The Missouri First Steps program contracts with a System Point of Entry (SPOE) in ten regions throughout the state. Each SPOE is responsible for the local administration of the program, including referral, intake, eligibility determination, and Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) development.

The Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS), Children's Division requires staff to refer any child under age three who meets the criteria of CAPTA to First Steps. This report provides information related to the children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA or DSS in calendar year 2022.

Children Referred to the First Steps Program

In calendar year 2022, 960 children were referred to the First Steps program by the Department of Social Services Children's Division. Of the 960 children, 523 children (54.5%) had a referral source of CAPTA, and 437 children (45.5%) had a referral source of DSS.

Of the 523 children referred with a referral source of CAPTA, 109 children (20.8%) were found eligible and reached the status of an IFSP. The remaining 414 children did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: 216 were withdrawn by a parent or guardian; 96 were Part C ineligible; 95 were unable to contact/locate; four were inquiry only*; and three were refused by SPOE.

Of the 437 children referred with a referral source of DSS, 168 children (38.4%) were found eligible and reached the status of an IFSP. The remaining 269 children did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: 105 were withdrawn by a parent or guardian; 97 were Part C ineligible; 59 were unable to contact/locate; five were refused by SPOE; two were inquiry only*; and one was deceased.

*Referral records that were closed with the reason *inquiry only* were included in this report. Inquiry only refers to those who are only seeking more information about the child or program.

Active Children by SPOE Region

Table 1 represents the 523 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA and their eligibility percentages by SPOE region.

Table 1. CAPTA Referrals and First Steps Status for Calendar Year 2022

SPOE Region	Referred to First Steps	Reached IFSP	% Served
Region 1 - Greater St. Louis	19	6	31.6%
Region 2 - St. Louis County	24	14	58.3%
Region 3 - Northeast	49	8	16.3%
Region 4 - Northwest	12	5	41.7%
Region 5 - Greater Kansas City	68	13	19.1%
Region 6 - Central	59	10	16.9%
Region 7 - Southwest	25	10	40.0%
Region 8 - South Central	107	20	18.7%
Region 9 - East Central	59	11	18.6%
Region 10 - Southeast	101	12	11.9%
Total	523	109	20.8%

Table 2 represents the 437 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of DSS and their eligibility percentages by SPOE region.

Table 2. DSS Referrals and First Steps Status for Calendar Year 2022

SPOE Region	Referred to First Steps	Reached IFSP	% Served
Region 1 - Greater St. Louis	60	29	48.3%
Region 2 - St. Louis County	63	22	34.9%
Region 3 - Northeast	27	10	37.0%
Region 4 - Northwest	9	5	55.6%
Region 5 - Greater Kansas City	39	10	25.6%
Region 6 - Central	36	19	52.8%
Region 7 - Southwest	35	16	45.7%
Region 8 - South Central	62	24	38.7%
Region 9 - East Central	50	20	40.0%
Region 10 - Southeast	56	13	23.2%
Total	437	168	38.4%

For a map of the SPOE regions, visit the First Steps website at:

<https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/first-steps-spoec-contact-information-region>

Authorizations

Table 3 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 109 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA who received First Steps services. As of February 2023, there were a total of 424 active authorizations for the 109 children who had authorized services.

Table 3. First Steps Service Authorizations for Children Referred by CAPTA

Service Type	Authorization Count	Percentage
Early Intervention Testing	95	22.4%
Occupational Therapy	88	20.8%
Special Instruction	86	20.3%
Physical Therapy	68	16.0%
Speech Language Pathology	38	9.0%
Dietary/Nutrition Services	14	3.3%
Assistive Technology	13	3.1%
Applied Behavior Analysis	7	1.7%
Audiology	5	1.2%
Social Work	5	1.2%
Counseling	3	0.7%
Team Meeting - Eligibility	1	0.2%
Vision Services	1	0.2%
Grand Total	424	100.0%

Table 4 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 168 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of DSS who received First Steps services. As of February 2023, there were a total of 665 active authorizations for the 168 children.

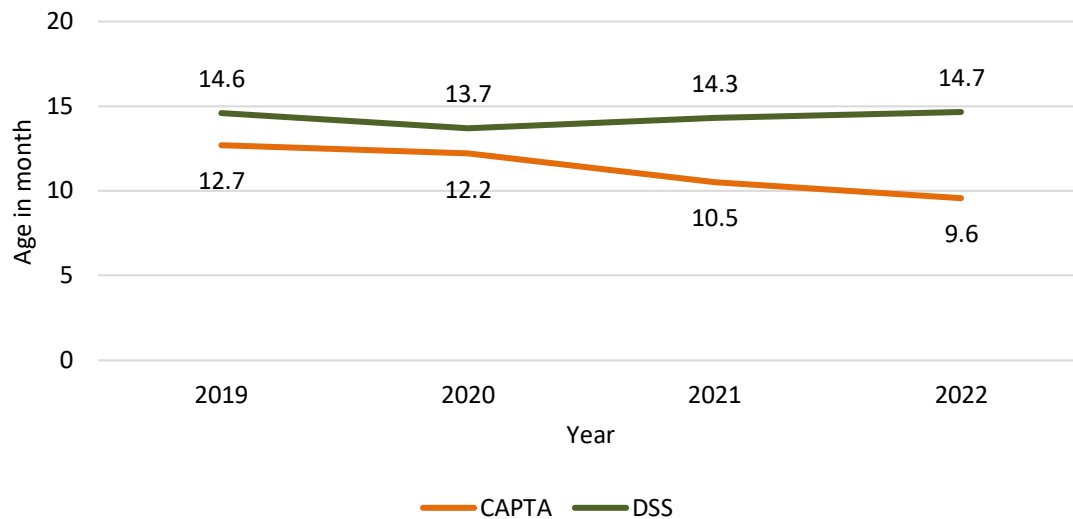
Table 4. First Steps Service Authorizations for Children Referred by DSS

Service Type	Authorization Count	Percentage
Early Intervention Testing	141	21.2%
Occupational Therapy	128	19.2%
Special Instruction	125	18.8%
Speech Language Pathology	90	13.5%
Physical Therapy	90	13.5%
Applied Behavior Analysis	29	4.4%
Assistive Technology	19	2.9%
Dietary/Nutrition Services	16	2.4%
Counseling	9	1.4%
Translation Services	8	1.2%
Social Work	4	0.6%
Audiology	3	0.5%
Team Meeting - Eligibility	1	0.2%
Transportation and Related Cost	1	0.2%
Vision Services	1	0.2%
Grand Total	665	100.0%

Average Age

Table 5 represents the average age, in months, of the 523 children referred to First Steps by CAPTA and the 437 children referred to First Steps by DSS. The average age of children referred to First Steps in 2022 was 9.6 months for CAPTA referrals and 14.7 months for DSS referrals.

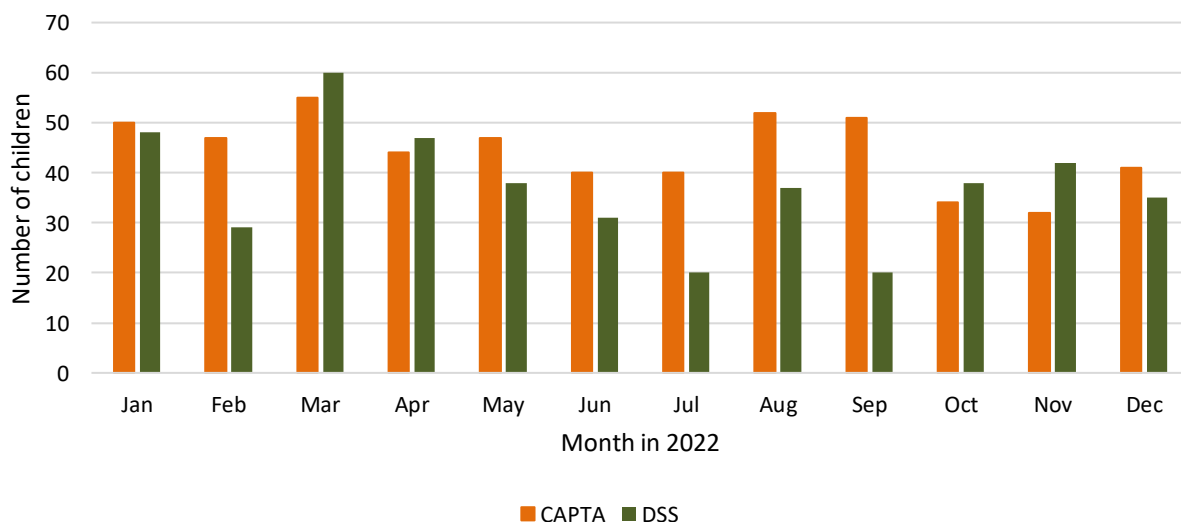
Table 5. Average Age of Children Referred



Referral Source and Referral

Table 6 represents the number of children by referral sources and referral. On average, 44 children were referred by CAPTA and 37 children were referred by DSS each month in 2022. The largest number of children were referred by CAPTA and DSS in March, whereas the smallest number of children were referred by CAPTA in October and November and by DSS in July and September.

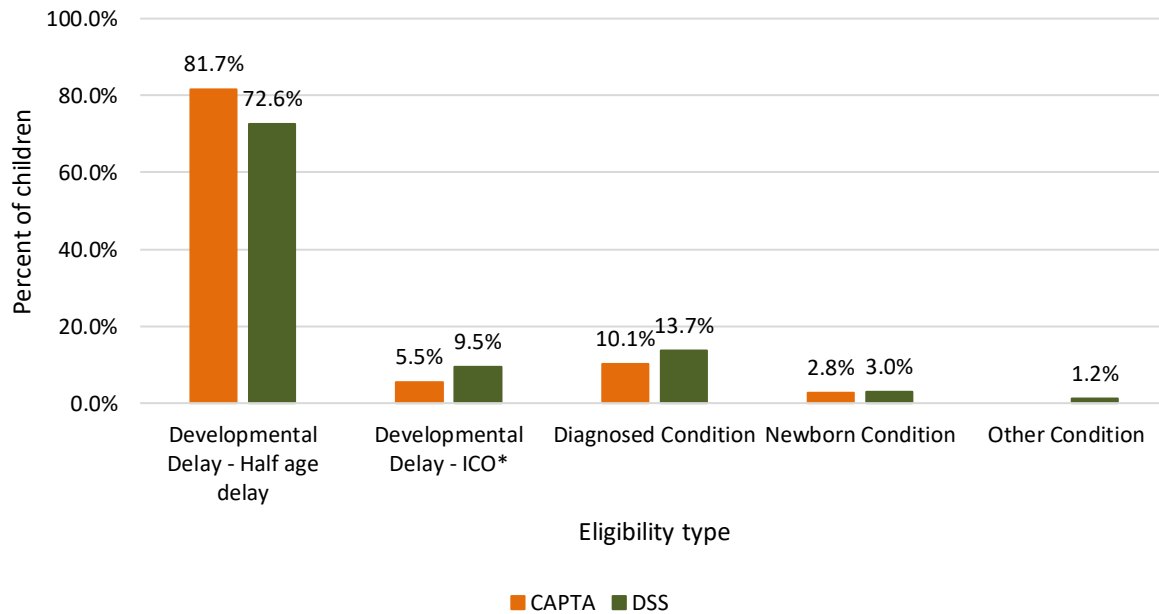
Table 6. Number of Children by Referral Source and Referral



Referral and Eligibility

Table 7 presents the percent of children who were referred by CAPTA and DSS and by eligibility. A majority of children was in Developmental Delay - Half age delay category. More than 10 percent of children were in Diagnosed Condition category, and they were referred by CAPTA (10.1%) and DSS (13.7%).

Table 7. Percent of Children by Referral Source and Eligibility



*Informed Clinical Opinion (ICO)